

Mountaineers fall in national quarterfinals

The Observer

SIoux CITY, Iowa — Eastern Oregon University volleyball's season came to a close Thursday afternoon, April 29, in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Women's Volleyball Championship quarterfinals in Sioux City, Iowa. The No. 8 Mountaineers fell in three straight sets (25-22, 25-20, 25-21) to the No. 1 University of Jamestown Jimmies. EOU finishes the season with a 19-2 record.

Eastern punched its ticket to bracket play on Wednesday, taking down Central Methodist University in straight sets (25-18, 25-12, 25-12) before facing off with Jamestown.

The Jimmies (30-1) hit .29 and held the Mountaineers' hitting to .19 en route to Thursday's sweep, according to a report from EOU Athletics. Eastern finished with 46 kills, however, just one behind Jamestown, which also had a 5-3 edge in blocks and put up three service aces, while the Mountaineers had none.

Both teams posted double-figure kills in each set, but the Jimmies were able to hit over .300 in two of



Alan Reed/Eastern Oregon University Athletics

Eastern Oregon University's Madison Pilon (4) and Cambree Scott (12) battle at the net against a University of Jamestown defender Thursday, April 29, 2021, in Sioux City, Iowa, during the quarterfinals of the NIAA volleyball championship. No. 8 EOU lost in three straight sets to the No. 1 Jimmies. Pilon, a senior, dished out a match-high 37 assists and was one dig shy of a double-double at nine. She finished her volleyball play at EOU with 80 straight matches with double-digit assists.

the three sets, compared to just one by the Mountaineers. In the opening frame, the two squads combined for 31 kills. EOU hit .343 in the opener, while Jamestown hit .375 to start 1-0.

EOU led 12-9 in the first set, but the Jimmies battled back and tied the match at 15-all and 16-all. Jamestown created enough separation down the stretch to secure the 25-22 win.

The Mountaineers in the second set took a 5-2 lead and managed to go up 10-4. But Jamestown's offense went on a 6-1 run to grab its first lead of the frame at 15-13.

EOU trailed 17-14 before a Sade Williams kill and two Jamestown errors knotted the score at 17-17. The Jimmies went on a 4-0 run against the Mountaineers to jump ahead 21-17

before walking away with the 25-20 win.

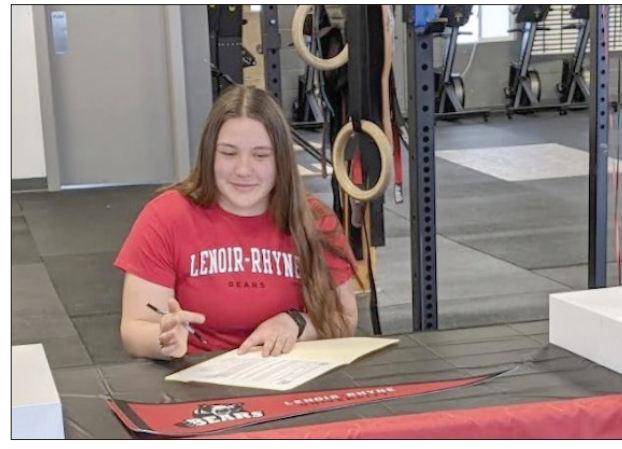
The third set was similar in its start to the first, as the two squads traded points in the early onset. EOU tied the game 5-5, but that would be the closest the team would come to a lead.

It was a 20-15 contest late in the set before Eastern made one final push at a comeback. The Mountaineers scored four straight points to get within one at 20-19, with Madison Morgan accounting for three of the four points. The late push was not enough, and Jamestown won 25-21.

Head coach Kaki McLean Morehead in the report noted the team's disappointment with Thursday's outcome.

"I know how good this team is and for us to not play at that high of a level was tough," according to McLean Morehead. "That being said, I am proud of what the team did here this week and all season. That's all any coach wants is their team to compete at a high level day in and day out. We did that, and I am excited for what is to come next season."

Harley Creech signs with weightlifting competitor



La Grande High School/Contributed Photo

La Grande High School senior Harley Creech of Cove signs with Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina, in this recent photo. She is joining the Bears' weightlifting team, which in its first year of competition won the 2021 USA Weightlifting National University Championships in March in Salt Lake City. Creech placed sixth in December 2020 at the National Youth Championships after taking up the sport less than a year earlier.

Local sports schedule

SATURDAY, MAY 1

PREP BASEBALL

La Grande at Baker/Powder Valley, 11 a.m., 1 p.m.

Grant Union/Prairie City at Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa/Elgin, 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

Vale at La Grande, 11 a.m., 1 p.m.

Echo/Stamfield at Enterprise/Wallowa/Joseph, 12 p.m., 2 p.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Lewis-Clark at EOU, 12 p.m., 3 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

EOU at Oregon Tech, 11 a.m., 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Pacific at EOU, 1 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Pacific at EOU, 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 2

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Lewis-Clark at EOU, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, MAY 3

PREP BOYS TENNIS

Nyssa at La Grande, 4 p.m.

PREP GIRLS TENNIS

Nyssa at La Grande, 4 p.m.

PREP BOYS GOLF

Baker/Powder Valley and La Grande at Ontario (times TBD)

TUESDAY, MAY 4

PREP BASEBALL

Weston-McEwen at Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa/Elgin, 2 p.m.

Baker/Powder Valley at Ontario, 4 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

Ontario at Baker/Powder Valley, 3 p.m.

Betting millions on QBs who can turn clubs around

By JIM LITKE

Associated Press

Last season wasn't just the strangest in the 100 years of pro football, it was also the highest-scoring by almost any measure — average score, total points and passing touchdowns.

And because the NFL is a copycat league, you didn't have to be a general manager, scout or even Mel Kiper Jr. to make an educated guess about how Day 1 of the draft would unfold.

Commissioner Roger Goodell was on stage in Cleveland along with a dozen top prospects, and

the selections made clear that tossing the pigskin around the NFL is in like never before.

Quarterbacks occupied the top three slots and five of the first 15.

Clemson's Trevor Lawrence went to Jacksonville; BYU's Zach Wilson to the New York Jets, and North Dakota State's Trey Lance to San Francisco.

Receivers filled the next three slots, and totaled five among the 32 picks.

Most every selection after that — weighted toward cornerbacks, edge rushers and left tackles,

who protect the QB's blind side — was designed to make life harder or easier for those first two groups to play pitch and catch. There's increasingly scant rewards for rushing the football compared to throwing it these days. That's why only two running backs and one guard made the cut in the first round.

The NFL and its draft have been heading in this direction for nearly two decades. Rule changes made it easier for high-flying offenses to operate, while cutting down on the brain-rattling hits that made

the game hard to watch without wincing. Why build a team patiently when a great quarterback can turn a franchise around on a dime? We saw 43-year-old Tom Brady turn the trick in Tampa last season, and 24-year-old Josh Allen nearly do it in Buffalo. Small wonder the clubs' brain trusts are more willing than ever to risks millions in search of the next one.

Some were skeptical whether Wilson, who grew up in Utah, could do that. They quickly learned one thing Wilson doesn't lack is confidence.

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Cove Ave Apartments	FAMILY	1-3	1906 Cove Ave, La Grande OR	541-963-0906
Highland View	FAMILY	1-3	801 N 15th, Elgin OR	541-398-1737
La Grande Plaza I	FAMILY	2-3	703-5 12th St, La Grande OR	541-805-5036
La Grande Plaza II	FAMILY	2-3	713 12th St, La Grande OR	541-805-5036
La Grande Retirement Apartments	ELD62+DISABLED	Studio, 1	1612 7th St, La Grande OR	541-805-5036
Leisure Way Apartments	FAMILY	1-2	203 N Storie, Wallowa OR	541-426-6474
Leisure Way Too	ELD62+DISABLED	1-2	207 N Storie, Wallowa OR	541-426-6474
Mountain Crest Apartments	FAMILY	1-2	607 SW Second St., Enterprise OR	541-426-6474
Park Street	ELD62+DISABLED	1-2	603 Silver St, Enterprise OR	541-426-6474
Pinehurst Apartments	FAMILY	1-2	1502 21st St, La Grande OR	541-963-9292
Thunderbird Apartments	FAMILY	1-3	245 SW 5th, Pendleton OR	541-276-0416
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UCSL-Mallard Heights	ELD62+DISABLED	1-2	870 N 15th #25, Elgin OR	541-398-1737
UCSL-Ramo Flat	ELD62+DISABLED	1-2	1091 S Main St, Union OR	541-963-0906

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